(The House re-assembled at 3-30 p.m.)

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Periodical verification of jewels in the temples.

*25 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any arrangements have been made by the Government for periodical verification of valuables including jewels in the temples in the State;

(*b*) if so, what they are;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that a faked jewel (oddiyanam) was substituted in the Margabanduswami temple at Virinjipuram (Vellore taluk); and

(*d*) if so, the action taken against the persons responsible for it?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: (*a*) Valuables including jewels in religious institutions are being verified and appraised but no arrangement has been made for periodical verification.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) & (*d*) At the time of verification and appraisement of the jewels and valuables in the temple in 1954, it was suspected that the gold oddiyanam donated in 1929 had been substituted with a silver one electroplated with gold. The police registered a case and investigated. As it was not possible to fix the responsibility for the substitution in view of passage of several years, the case was closed as undetectable.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM: In view of the answer to clause (*a*), will the Government arrange for periodical verification of valuables so that there may not be recurrence of such acts in the temples?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: That proposal has been received from the Commissioner and that is under consideration.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN: Has the attention of the Hon. Minister been drawn to the fact that the Executive Officer in the Gangatheeswarar Temple recently pledged a large number of jewels for a huge amount and may I know whether any case has been registered in that connection?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: My attention has not been drawn to that. The hon. Member may put a separate question or kindly write to me.